



**NATIONAL  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE**

USDA/NASS Colorado Field Office  
PO Box 150969

Lakewood, CO 80215

Phone: (303)236-2300 1-800-392-3202

FAX: (303)236-2299 1-800-643-6885

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# AG UPDATE

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**LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER - MARCH 2009**

Commercial livestock slaughter in **Colorado** during March 2009 totaled 169.4 million pounds, 2 percent above the same month a year earlier and 3 percent above February 2009. Beef slaughter decreased 4 percent from March 2008 to 189,600 head, and the average live weight of 1,357 increased 73 pounds from a year ago. Hog slaughter decreased 14 percent to 600 head, and the average live weight decreased 1 pound to 257. Accumulated red meat production for the first three months of 2009 totaled 504.9 million pounds, down from the 512.6 million pounds produced during the comparable period a year ago.

Commercial red meat production for the **United States** totaled 4.14 billion pounds in March, up 1 percent from the 4.09 billion pounds produced in March 2008. Beef production, at 2.14 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.73 million head, up slightly from March 2008. The average live weight was up 29 pounds from the previous year, at 1,305 pounds. Veal production totaled 12.2 million pounds, 8 percent above March a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 79,800 head, up 12 percent from March 2008. The average live weight was down 10 pounds from last year, at 263 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.97 billion pounds, up slightly from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 9.65 million head, down slightly from March 2008. The average live weight was up 1 pound from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 15.9 million pounds, was down slightly from March 2008. Sheep slaughter totaled 222,000 head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 143 pounds, up 4 pounds from March a year ago.

January to March 2009 commercial red meat production was 12.1 billion pounds, down 3 percent from 2008. Accumulated beef production was down 2 percent from last year, veal was up 5 percent, pork was down 4 percent from

last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 8 percent.

**Red Meat Production - Colorado and United States**

Area and Species	Mar. 2008	Feb. 2009	Mar. 2009	January-March	
				2008	2009
	Million Pounds				
Colorado:	165.9	165.1	169.4	512.6	504.9
United States:	4,089.8	3,825.0	4,141.9	12,474.9	12,136.5
Beef .....	2,110.5	1,985.2	2,144.8	6,371.9	6,248.3
Veal .....	11.3	11.0	12.2	33.6	35.2
Pork .....	1,962.0	1,816.1	1,969.0	6,023.6	5,811.1
Lamb & Mutton	16.0	12.8	15.9	45.7	42.0

**HAY STOCKS**

**MAY 1, 2008**

Hay stocks on **Colorado** farms and ranches as of May 1, 2009 totaled 400,000 tons, down 23 percent from stocks of 520,000 tons on hand last year. Less hay production last year combined with poor pasture conditions last fall and winter led to the decrease in hay inventory.

All hay stored in the **United States** on farms May 1, 2009 totaled 22.1 million tons, up 2 percent from a year ago. Disappearance from December 1, 2008-May 1, 2009 totaled 81.6 million tons, compared with 82.5 million tons for the same period a year ago. Hay stocks decreased from last year across most of the Great Plains and Rocky Mountain States. Texas and Oklahoma had the largest decreases due in part to lower hay production in 2008. In addition, dry weather last fall and winter resulted in poor pasture conditions which increased supplemental hay feeding. Hay stocks in North Dakota and Montana were down 44 and 42 percent, respectively, due to a combination of lower production and spring snow storms that prolonged the hay feeding season.

Meanwhile, in the eastern United States, higher production, milder winter weather, increased precipitation, and lower cattle inventories contributed to higher hay stocks on May 1. The largest increase was shown in Tennessee where stocks were 157 percent higher than a year earlier. Other notable increases were shown in Alabama and Kentucky, both up 150 percent from May 2008. Stocks in the western United States were also higher than a year ago as lower demand was noted in California, Oregon, and Washington.

**Hay Stocks on Farms,  
Selected States and U. S. May 1, 2007-2009**

State	2007	2008	2009
	<b>1,000 tons</b>		
Alabama.....	144	150	375
Arizona .....	35	36	50
Arkansas .....	160	530	570
California .....	202	250	470
<b>Colorado .....</b>	<b>290</b>	<b>520</b>	<b>400</b>
Connecticut.....	12	8	9
Delaware.....	4	1	4
Florida.....	21	66	58
Georgia .....	82	145	238
Idaho .....	320	300	450
Illinois .....	325	210	300
Indiana .....	198	93	185
Iowa .....	684	640	750
Kansas.....	600	1,100	1,350
Kentucky.....	600	186	465
Louisiana.....	57	100	60
Maine .....	27	27	18
Maryland.....	60	52	111
Massachusetts .....	13	12	12
Michigan.....	350	320	450
Minnesota .....	740	535	790
Mississippi.....	78	196	214
Missouri.....	625	900	2,050
Montana.....	760	1,025	590
Nebraska.....	840	990	935
Nevada.....	202	90	170
New Hampshire .....	12	6	8
New Jersey.....	10	5	26
New Mexico.....	105	125	105
New York.....	326	283	420
North Carolina .....	120	79	311
North Dakota .....	609	1,260	700
Ohio .....	356	165	325
Oklahoma.....	400	1,600	1,000
Oregon .....	180	150	270
Pennsylvania .....	520	500	700
Rhode Island.....	3	1	1
South Carolina .....	65	55	115
South Dakota .....	1,150	1,930	1,900
Tennessee.....	425	215	552
Texas.....	885	4,906	2,100
Utah .....	185	215	285
Vermont.....	38	60	37
Virginia.....	268	226	450
Washington.....	240	200	350
West Virginia.....	136	92	156
Wisconsin .....	1,308	790	950
Wyoming .....	220	240	230
<b>United States.....</b>	<b>14,990</b>	<b>21,585</b>	<b>22,065</b>

**CROP PRODUCTION  
MAY 1, 2009**

Winter wheat production in **Colorado**, based on conditions as of May 1, 2009, is forecast at 73.6 million bushels according to the Colorado Agricultural Statistics Service. This forecast is 29 percent above last year's production, but 20 percent below the winter wheat crop produced two years ago. Acreage for harvest, estimated at 2.3 million acres, is 400,000 acres more than a year ago.

Average yield is forecast at 32.0 bushels per acre, up 2.0 bushels per acre from last year's crop. This year's crop was planted under generally good conditions resulting in some very good stands going into winter dormancy. After a relatively dry and windy winter the crop has retained most of its potential. Above average moisture received in April boosted soil moisture supplies and early growth. Final yield will largely be determined by the combination of moisture and temperature conditions during May and June.

Production of winter wheat in the **United States** is forecasted at 1.50 billion bushels, down 20 percent from 2008. Based on May 1 conditions, the U.S. yield is forecast at 44.2 bushels per acre, 3.0 bushels below last year. Expected grain area totals 34.0 million acres, down 14 percent from last year. Hard Red Winter (HRW) harvested acreage is down about 9 percent from the previous year. Soft Red Winter (SRW) harvested acreage is estimated to be down 30 percent from last year. The portion of the winter wheat crop rated good to excellent on May 4, at 47 percent, was virtually unchanged from last year.

In the southern Great Plains States, winter temperatures were moderate, with some damage resulting from winter and late spring storms. Oklahoma and Texas experienced drought like conditions during emergence and most of the growing season. As a result, dryland yields are expected to suffer from the lack of moisture throughout plant development and grain set. The second week of April delivered a hard freeze to parts of Kansas and Oklahoma, affecting earlier maturing varieties. Severe storms followed, bringing heavy rain, hail, and high winds across many areas. Weather conditions remained cooler and wetter than normal through the first week of May.

## Winter Wheat: Acres harvested, yield and production, selected states and United States, 2007-2009

STATE	Acres harvested		Yield per acre		Production		
	2008	Indicated 2009	2008	Indicated 2009	2007	2008	Indicated 2009
	1,000 Acres		Bushels		1,000 Bushels		
Arkansas .....	980	430	57.0	54.0	28,700	55,860	23,220
California .....	400	280	85.0	80.0	21,465	34,000	22,400
<b>Colorado .....</b>	<b>1,900</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>30.0</b>	<b>32.0</b>	<b>91,650</b>	<b>57,000</b>	<b>73,600</b>
Georgia .....	400	240	56.0	50.0	9,200	22,400	12,000
Idaho .....	800	700	75.0	82.0	51,830	60,000	57,400
Illinois .....	1,150	800	64.0	63.0	48,950	73,600	50,400
Indiana .....	560	430	69.0	69.0	20,720	38,640	29,670
Kansas .....	8,900	8,500	40.0	40.0	283,800	356,000	340,000
Kentucky .....	460	400	71.0	72.0	12,000	32,660	28,800
Maryland .....	180	180	73.0	67.0	10,560	13,140	12,060
Michigan .....	710	570	69.0	69.0	34,450	48,990	39,330
Mississippi .....	485	200	62.0	60.0	18,480	30,070	12,000
Missouri .....	1,160	750	48.0	51.0	37,840	55,680	38,250
Montana .....	2,420	2,400	39.0	39.0	83,220	94,380	93,600
North Dakota .....	550	490	41.0	46.0	21,805	22,550	22,540
Nebraska .....	1,670	1,600	44.0	42.0	84,280	73,480	67,200
New York .....	122	110	63.0	58.0	4,505	7,686	6,380
North Carolina .....	720	510	60.0	55.0	20,000	43,200	28,050
Ohio .....	1,090	990	68.0	66.0	44,530	74,120	65,340
Oklahoma .....	4,500	3,500	37.0	23.0	98,000	166,500	80,500
Oregon .....	775	720	58.0	53.0	38,160	44,950	38,160
Pennsylvania .....	185	180	64.0	59.0	8,990	11,840	10,620
South Carolina .....	205	160	54.0	51.0	4,050	11,070	8,160
South Dakota .....	1,890	1,550	55.0	49.0	91,080	103,950	75,950
Tennessee .....	520	300	63.0	64.0	10,660	32,760	19,200
Texas .....	3,300	2,400	30.0	27.0	140,600	99,000	64,800
Virginia .....	280	245	71.0	66.0	13,120	19,880	16,170
Washington .....	1,720	1,700	56.0	60.0	104,780	96,320	102,000
Wisconsin .....	335	305	66.0	62.0	18,360	22,110	18,910
Other States <sup>1</sup> /.....	1,247	1,055	53.0	43.0	43,456	66,067	45,364
<b>United States.....</b>	<b>39,614</b>	<b>33,995</b>	<b>47.2</b>	<b>44.2</b>	<b>1,499,241</b>	<b>1,867,903</b>	<b>1,502,074</b>

<sup>1</sup>/Other States include AL, AZ, DE, FL, IA, LA, MN, NV, NJ, NM, UT, WV, and WY. Individual state level estimates will be published in the "Small Grains 2009 Summary", September 30, 2009.

### AGRICULTURAL PRICES

#### APRIL 15, 2009

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in April, at 131 percent, based on 1990-92=100, increased 5 points (4.0 percent) from March. The Crop Index is up 9 points (6.2 percent) and the Livestock Index increased 3 points (2.8 percent). Producers received higher prices for lettuce, cattle, soybeans, and onions and lower prices for strawberries, snap beans, apples, and cauliflower. In addition to prices, the overall index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities producers sell. Increased monthly marketings of strawberries, sweet corn, cattle, and lettuce offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, wheat, and hogs.

The April index is 155, up 6.2 percent from March but 8.3 percent below April 2008. Indexes for commercial vegetables, oil-bearing crops, fruits & nuts, potatoes & dry beans, cotton, and food grains increased while the feed grains & hay index was unchanged.

The April all wheat price, at \$5.69 per bushel, is down 1 cent from March and \$4.41 below April 2008. The corn price, at \$3.87 per bushel, is up 1 cent from last month but \$1.27 below April 2008. The all hay price, at \$129 per ton, is unchanged from March but down \$18.00 from last April. Sorghum grain, at \$5.57 per cwt, is 23 cents above March but \$3.73 below April last year.

The soybean price, at \$9.89 per bushel, increased 77 cents from March but is \$2.11 below April 2008. The all potato price, at \$10.42 per cwt, is up \$1.15 from March and \$1.97 from last April. The all dry bean price, at \$29.50 per cwt, is down \$3.00 from the previous month and \$4.80 from April 2008.

The April index, at 112, is 2.8 percent above last month but down 12 percent from April 2008. Compared with a year ago, prices are lower for milk, cattle, eggs, broilers, turkeys, hogs, and calves. The April hog price, at \$43.40 per cwt, is down 40 cents from March and \$1.00 lower than a year ago. The April beef cattle price of \$82.80 per cwt is up \$3.80 from last month but \$4.00 lower than April 2008. The April all milk price of \$12.00 per cwt is 20 cents higher than last month but \$6.00 lower than April 2008.

**Prices Received and Paid Summary  
United States**

Index 1990-92 = 100	2008		2009	
	Mar.	Apr.	Mar.	Apr.
	<b>Percent</b>			
Prices Received.....	146	146	126	131
Prices Paid .....	174	179	178	178
Ratio <sup>1/</sup> .....	84	82	71	74

<sup>1/</sup>Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid.

Compared with April 2008 all **Colorado** crop prices except alfalfa hay and potatoes averaged lower while all livestock prices also averaged lower. Mid-April 2009 wheat, at \$5.56 per bushel, was 38 cents lower than the previous month and \$2.50 below April a year ago. Corn, at \$3.80 per bushel, was 6 cents below the previous month and 90 cents below April 2008. The mid-April potato price, at \$9.85 per cwt, was down 55 cents from last month but was 25 cents above April a year ago. Dry bean prices were \$2.00 below March at \$31.10 per cwt and were \$5.60 below the April 2008 price of \$36.70 per cwt. Alfalfa hay, at \$165.00 per ton, remained unchanged from last month and \$18.00 higher than April 2008. The other hay price, at \$125.00 per ton, remained unchanged from March but \$5.00 below April a year ago.

The mid-April steer and heifer price, at \$93.50 per cwt was \$3.50 above last month but \$5.00 below the previous year average of \$98.50 per cwt. Cow prices increased \$4.00 from the previous month to \$50.20 per cwt but averaged \$2.00 below April 2008. The mid-April calf price of \$106.00 per cwt averaged \$1.00 higher than the previous month and \$8.00 below the April 2008 average of \$114.00 per cwt. The April all milk price of \$12.00 was up 30 cents but \$6.50 lower than the previous year.

**Average Prices Received By Farmers**

Item	Unit	Colorado		
		Apr. 2008	Mar. 2009	Apr. 2009
<b>Crops</b>				
<b>Dollars</b>				
Wheat .....	Bu.	8.06	5.94	5.56
Corn .....	Bu.	4.70	3.86	3.80
Potatoes.....	Cwt	9.60	10.40	9.85
Dry edible beans.....	Cwt	36.70	33.10	31.10
Alfalfa hay (baled) .....	Ton	147.00	165.00	165.00
Other hay (baled) .....	Ton	130.00	125.00	125.00
<b>Livestock &amp; Products</b>				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	97.60	89.10	92.60
Steers & heifers.....	Cwt	98.50	90.00	93.50
Cows .....	Cwt	52.20	46.20	50.20
Calves.....	Cwt	114.00	105.00	106.00
Sheep.....	Cwt	30.00	36.00	1/
Lambs.....	Cwt	104.00	100.00	1/
Milk sold to plants .....	Cwt	18.50	11.70	12.00
<b>United States</b>				
<b>Crops</b>				
<b>Dollars</b>				
Wheat .....	Bu.	10.10	5.70	5.69
Corn .....	Bu.	5.14	3.86	3.87
Soybeans .....	Bu.	12.00	9.12	9.89
Barley (All) .....	Bu.	4.56	4.88	4.78
Barley (Feed).....	Bu.	4.67	2.73	2.72
Sorghum.....	Cwt	9.30	5.34	5.57
Potatoes.....	Cwt	8.45	9.27	10.42
Dry edible beans.....	Cwt	34.30	32.50	29.50
Alfalfa hay (baled) .....	Ton	161.00	137.00	133.00
Other hay (baled) .....	Ton	120.00	109.00	117.00
Onions.....	Cwt	10.60	6.49	16.80
<b>Livestock &amp; Products</b>				
Beef Cattle.....	Cwt	86.80	79.00	82.80
Steers & heifers.....	Cwt	91.80	84.00	87.70
Cows .....	Cwt	50.70	44.60	47.50
Calves.....	Cwt	116.00	107.00	109.00
Sheep.....	Cwt	28.40	33.10	1/
Lambs.....	Cwt	99.40	100.00	1/
Hogs.....	Cwt	44.40	43.80	43.40
Milk sold to plants .....	Cwt	18.00	11.80	12.00
Broilers.....	Lb.	0.46	0.45	0.45

<sup>1/</sup> Mid-month price not est.

**POTATO STOCKS**

**May 1, 2009**

Fall potato stocks in the San Luis Valley of **Colorado** totaled 5.3 million cwt as of May 1, 2009, up 18 percent from the stocks on hand one year earlier. The latest stocks represented 25 percent of the 21.33 million cwt produced in 2008. The May 1, 2008 stocks represented 21 percent of the 20.98 million cwt produced in 2007. Sales of Colorado's fall potatoes for table stock have averaged 68 percent of the production for the 2003-2007 period. The remaining 32 percent of production is used for seed, processing, feed and home use or is lost through cullage and shrinkage. The total quantity of potatoes sold as a percent of production has averaged about 86 percent over the past five years.

The 13 major potato States held 75.4 million cwt of potatoes in storage May 1, 2009, down 10 percent from a year ago and 5 percent below May 1, 2007. Potatoes in storage accounted for 21 percent of the 2008 fall storage States' production, unchanged from May 1, 2008. Klamath Basin stocks totaled 750 thousand cwt on May 1, 2009, up 32 percent from a year ago. Klamath Basin stocks include potatoes stored in California and Klamath County, Oregon.

Potato disappearance, at 292 million cwt, was 7 percent below May 1, 2008 and down 6 percent from 2007. Season-to-date shrink and loss, at 22.3 million cwt, was down 7 percent from the same date in both 2007 and 2008. Processors in the 9 major States have used 149 million cwt of potatoes this season, down 10 percent from the same period last year and down 9 percent from 2 years ago. Dehydrating usage accounted for 28.3 million cwt of the total processing, down 16 percent from last year and 23 percent below the same period in 2007.

## UPCOMING REPORTS

**Colorado** and **United States** data from most of the following reports will appear in subsequent issues of AG UPDATE. However, those who have an immediate need for the data may call this office after 1:15 P.M. on the day of release - toll free 1-800-392-3202. The complete USDA report is also available on the Worldwide Web at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/>

May 12 - Crop Production  
May 15 - Turkey Hatchery  
May 15 - Potato Stocks  
May 18 - Milk Production  
May 22 - Cattle on Feed  
May 22 - Cold Storage

**William Meyer**  
**Director**

**Rodger Ott**  
**Deputy Director**